NN/LM

National Network of
Libraries of Medicine

Pacific Southwest Region

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Celebrating the 30th: A Look Back to the 80s
by Darcy Van Vuren, Associate Director PSRMLS (1982-1985)

Beryl,

It is with great pleasure and very fond memories that I sit down to write this article for the thirtieth anniversary of the Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library and to reminisce about PSRMLS, as it was then known, during the period 1982-1985. To think that when I joined the RML in 1982 the following was true:

- The RML had just replaced its mimeograph machine with a photocopier.
- Email was not used, and the Internet and voice-mail were unheard of.
- Fax was expensive and seldom used – yes, interlibrary loans were all sent by mail! We even studied the feasibility of introducing fax technology into the Region and found it was still too costly.
- PCs did not exist in the region – PSRMLS used an electric, self-correcting typewriter, and produced union lists on the UCLA mainframe with its cumbersome/time-consuming editing capabilities.
- MEDLINE was only searched by librarians who took a week-long training course, often at PSRMLS.
- Punch cards were used to produce union lists; I still remember staff checking the accuracy of the cards by holding a batch to the light to ensure the holes went all the way through!

With an NLM charter to introduce new technologies to the health care community and with mushrooming technologies, the three years I spent with the RML was a very exciting time. I thought it would be fun to relate the focus of PSRMLS at that time, so you can compare it with today to see now much has endured and what has changed.

TYPICAL PSRML ACTIVITIES IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES - PSRMLS was one of seven Regional Medical Libraries and one of the three remaining MEDLARS training centers in the country. MEDLINE was an incredibly rich, complex database to search, so only librarians could become MEDLINE searchers and they had to attend a one-week class – healthcare providers could not search MEDLINE on their own at that time! PSRMLS staff also taught an array of other classes to librarians such as "Organization, Management and Services of a Small Hospital Library," and "Consulting

Latitudes

In This Issue

(Letter continued from page 1)

Services and Library Skills Training," as well as workshops on managing audiovisuals, cataloging, and document delivery. These classes were part of a big initiative to get more hospital libraries staffed with trained librarians. We also offered consulting services and would evaluate hospital libraries and recommend changes to improve information access. A key activity was to serve as a clearinghouse to help regional librarians determine where to go for information or assistance. We also helped facilitate interlibrary loan activities by coordinating the content gathering and production of four union lists of periodicals and by developing a union list of audiovisuals.

NEW INITIATIVES - Besides the activities above, we also undertook several new initiatives to improve the access of information to health care professionals. I've highlighted a few below:

Email - Email was new in the early 1980s and PSRMLS initiated one of the first uses of email between institutions in disparate locations. When we decided to introduce email into the region, the few examples in existence only worked on local area networks housed under the same roof. It was a challenge to find a system that could link libraries throughout our region – CLASS was the only one. First we had to try and understand email ourselves so that we could make it simpler for libraries to adapt to this major paradigm shift. What a steep learning curve it was - and quite a challenge to get a group who wanted to try email to all take the risk of subscribing at the same time and then to start sending/accessing emails on the same day. We needed a group to do this, since if only one librarian signed up there would have been no one else to communicate with - no one else was using email at the time.

Personal Computers - PCs had only been commercially available for a few years when I joined the RML and were not used in our office. I vividly remember learning WordStar and VisiCalc and wondering how I was ever going to learn to accommodate this new machine. Yet what fun to begin exploring the PC and to see all that it really could do - and then to call PC vendors and ask "if their PC had software that emulated a dumb terminal" so we could use it to search MEDLINE – and to not understand a word of what we were asking! How fascinating it was to grasp its potential value to libraries in the region and begin urging librarians to budget for or buy PCs to help manage their libraries. We had no idea of the revolution they would bring in; it's good to know that the RML and those of you who took the early plunge were in the vanguard of this revolution!

MEDLINE for Physicians - Physicians were on the forefront of buying PCs, in part to search MEDLINE. You can imagine the sensation this created in the library community – would this mean that physicians would no longer need librarians? It was clear that one way

or another physicians were going to search MEDLINE on their own and that without some guidance from us they would not be very successful with its complexities. So we decided to develop a class that ultimately was used by other RMLs throughout the country. What a challenge that was, to distill down the one-week, jammed-packed course required for librarians to two hours of training for physicians.

Evaluation Study - In 1984, PSRMLS celebrated its fifteenth birthday and at that time we conducted a comparative study of changes in the region between 1969, when the RML program began, and 1984. We found that during that first fifteen years, hospital libraries had progressed in almost all areas:

- Staff sizes had increased dramatically with over 50% of the hospital libraries having more than one staff member versus only 16% having more than one in 1969.
- The number of librarians with MLS degrees increased from 35 in 1969 to 250 in 1984.
- Library collections were larger and more current.
- More libraries provided services such as reference, compiling bibliographies, routing tables of contents, and photocopying.

Respondents to the questionnaire were asked to rate PSRMLS services and on almost all of the questions 90% or more rated the services either 1 or 2 ("1" being excellent) and they were able to identify specific changes in their library services resulting from the PSRMLS programs.

I had such terrific years at PSRMLS and when I entered the commercial world of high technology and watched new technologies come to the fore, I came to realize that medical libraries were and continue to be on the forefront of technology adoption. It was fun to help make some of these technologies a reality while at PSRMLS.

Congratulations to PSRML for reaching 30 years. It is great to see such a vibrant institution continue to serve!!

Darcy

Share YOUR Vision
for the Future of the NN/LM!

In the year 2000, the Request for Proposals for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) contracts for 2001-2006 will be issued. Although we at the National Network Office do not plan to make major changes in the structure of these contracts, we would like to provide you with an opportunity to send us your suggestions as we prepare the Statement of Work this summer. As a point of information, the current contracts are comprised of programs in two major areas: Basic Network Programs (programs and services within the region which rely on the contributions of network member libraries and the sharing of network resources to continue the basic structure of the network); and Outreach Programs (Internet connectivity, technology awareness, outreach to health professionals, exhibits, and library improvement projects). In the fourth year of the current contracts, we are adding a consumer health information component, which will be the major area of change and expansion in the 2001-2006 contracts.

If you have comments or suggestions for the 2001-2006 NN/LM contracts, please send them to Becky Lyon, Head, National Network Office, blyon@nlm.nih.gov by July 15, 1999.

RML Directors Meet at MLA
by Beryl Glitz

The directors, associate directors and many of the staff from the eight Regional Medical Libraries, met with NLM staff in Chicago, prior to the Medical Library Association annual meeting. Some of the highlights from that meeting are listed below. Other articles in this issue provide further information on a variety of NLM's programs and services which were discussed at this meeting. Since so many of these are currently "under construction" as part of NLM's system reinvention, be sure to check NLM's Web site for the latest information. To make certain you don't miss anything, you might want to sign up for NLM's New Files Mailing List. This distributes weekly announcements of new and updated files on the NLM Web site and Anonymous FTP server. To subscribe, send an email message to: lists@mailserv.nlm.nih.gov; leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message type *subscribe nlmfiles*. For more information, check http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/nlmfiles-email.html.

NLM Highlights:

- A new Request for Proposals for NN/LM contracts to start in 2001 will be written this summer. NLM wants input from Network Members as they develop the statement of work this summer (see p. 3). The RFP will be issued next spring.
- NLM is updating its long-range plan and again requests input from network librarians for suggestions on issues which NLM should be addressing in the next five to ten years (see p.7).
- In a continuing effort to support medical library education, the NLM associate program has recently been expanded to two years; and additional slots have been added to the Medical Informatics training program at Woods Hole, MA.
- The library has appointed an E-information working group to consider the permanence of NLM's electronic content. The group will develop recommendations on such issues as the levels of permanence needed, how to record and make public their decisions on these levels, and how to label content to ensure full access.
- A variety of changes are being made to NLM databases and search interfaces, e.g. OLD MEDLINE will continue to expand back in time; the Index Catalog will be converted to digital format; a new clinical trials database is in the works.
- A follow-up survey on the Internet connectivity of NN/LM members is being conducted to update information gathered in September 1997. Non-respondents to the last survey, those responding that they had no access, new members, and a random sample of other members are being targeted.

RML Consumer Health Activities: Updates were provided by the three regions involved in the pilot consumer health project announced last year at the directors' meeting. This project assisted public libraries in providing consumer health information to their patrons. Training, special funding, document delivery procedures, and promotional materials were made available to participating libraries. The project showed that health questions were in the top 5-10% of requests coming into public libraries; these libraries have limited health collections; their staff need training in answering health questions and searching medical resources; access to the Internet varies and many libraries have very few workstations; most libraries rely heavily on print resources though they do have access to electronic resources such as Health Reference Center; staff have very limited time to spend in teaching and explaining resources to patrons.

A full evaluative report of the consumer health project is forthcoming from NLM. Please contact the PSRML office if you would like more information on the three regional projects. ✄

DOCLINE Sunrise Seminar
Medical Library Association Annual
Conference May 18, 1999
by Rosalyn Leiderman, Head, Systems Unit
Public Services Division

Rosalyn Leiderman and Deena Acton presented the new DOCLINE system that is currently under development at NLM and is expected to be available by the end of 1999. It was emphasized that the new system will both retain its current functionality and provide many new features and a smoother interface. Seminar attendees were warned that all screens are still subject to change. Regardless of the release date (before or after the new year), NLM's current DOCLINE system will remain available until the new system is up and running. Testing for Y2K compliance is complete. Below is a summary of the seminar discussion.

NLM needs to complete the programming and testing. An implementation plan will be announced later this year. NLM will have a Web page in June or July that will provide users with more information on these tentative dates and plans. The availability of the Web page will be announced on DOCLINE and the regional listservs.

System Requirements - **The minimum requirements for the new systems are:**

- Internet access
- 28800 modem or higher transmission
- screen resolution of 800 x 600 or higher
- Netscape 4.5 or Internet Explorer 5.0 with Javascript and cookies enabled
- Barcode font for printing the request number on receipts (optional)

All DOCLINE users must have access to the Internet to use the new system. There will be no other service providers to the new system. Any users who do not have Internet access are encouraged to contact their RML for assistance.

ISO/ILL Protocol - NLM plans to implement the ISO/ILL protocol in the new DOCLINE. The ILL protocol provides users with the ability to exchange messages (requests) between proprietary systems. Third party software, such as QuickDOC and ClioDoc, may elect to communicate with DOCLINE through the ILL protocol. In addition, users will be able to send requests from DOCLINE to other proprietary systems that have implemented the protocol.

AT&T FTS2000 Dial Up Service - The AT&T FTS2000 service will be discontinued as of September 30, 1999. NLM will continue to have dial up service after September 30, 1999, for DOCLINE users until the new system is available. Plans for the new dial up service will be announced in the summer. The QuickDOC software will be modified to accommodate the new dial up service. Users who can transition to the Internet should do so now.

New LIBID - Currently there are two unique identifiers for a DOCLINE library, each serving a different purpose: the LIBID and the SERHOLD code. In the new system there will be only one unique identifier. The new LIBID for U.S. and Canadian libraries will consist of the US MARC Geographical Code and the SERHOLD code. The new LIBID for other countries will consist of the first two letters in the US MARC Country Code, followed by the letter "X", and the SERHOLD code.

Examples of new LIBIDs:

United States - University of Illinois at Chicago, Library of the Health Sciences ILUILL [state abbreviation + U + SERHOLD code]

Canada - Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) ONCCIS [province code + C + SERHOLD code]

Other countries - BIREME-Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information, Sao Paulo, Brazil BRXBIR [first two letters of country + X + SERHOLD code]

New Request Number - The new request number will be a sequential number up to a maximum of eight digits. It may be displayed and printed (optionally) in a barcode format on the receipt. The new request number will not begin with the borrower's SERHOLD code. Loansome Doc requests will no longer begin with LDX or LDD. The Loansome Doc request number will be retained when it is transferred to DOCLINE.

Features of the new system - The new system will allow users to submit and retrieve requests, search and update DOCUSER, search and update SERHOLD, access a list of Loansome Doc patrons, change their password, and access online help.

DOCLINE

It is envisioned that users will retrieve citations from PubMed or LOCATORplus by linking to these systems through DOCLINE. Users will be able to establish a routing profile that will eliminate the repetitive keying of interlibrary loan information that is required to complete the form.

New time-triggered actions will be implemented in the new system. Lenders will have two business days to update requests as filled or rejected.

SERHOLD

In order to convert the holdings data, NLM will freeze the current online SERHOLD system and make it view only two weeks prior to the implementation of the new DOCLINE system.

In the new system, DOCLINE participants will be able to search the entire SERHOLD database. Each library will be able to update its own holdings.

Programming for batch updating will not be completed until late 2000. At that time, NLM will accept OCLC and USMARC batch updates for libraries that are currently updating via batch and elect to continue to do so. However, all libraries are strongly urged to update online if possible to improve the currency of data available in SERHOLD.

A library will be able to print or download its own holdings, holdings for a library group of which it is a member [see Q & A below], and holdings for its own state or province.

Users will be allowed to view holdings, update or delete the holdings for which they have update rights.

Questions and Answers

Q. Where can I obtain written information on the current DOCLINE system being Y2K compliant?

A. This information will be available on NLM's web site (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/y2k/y2k.htm).

Q. How are library groups established?

A. Library groups will be used to authorize SERHOLD Coordinators to update holdings for specific groups of libraries as well as allowing DOCLINE participants the ability to limit searches in SERHOLD by library groups.

Library groups consist of eleven or more related libraries that cannot be identified in any other way (e.g. All DOCLINE libraries in Maryland would not be considered a library group since a search can be limited by state).

Library groups are established by NLM in consultation with the RML. The RMLs review and approve changes and additions to library groups. These changes are then submitted to NLM. ✄

Satellite Teleconference on 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act

COPYRIGHT IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM:THE IMPACT OF RECENT CHANGES TO U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW

Originally broadcast on Friday, May 21, 1999
Hosted by: George Washington University Library

A videotape and conference materials of the teleconference, *Copyright in the New Millennium: The Impact of Recent Changes to U.S. Copyright Law,* are now available on loan from the PSRML, to regional libraries.

With a distinguished panel of experts, the teleconference described the new laws, discussed the implications for libraries, archives, and educational institutions as they attempt to comply with the new laws, and discussed strategies for the community as it engages in the ongoing studies required by the law and confronts pending database legislation.

For detailed information on circulation privileges, please contact the PSRML at 800-338-7657.

NLM and Health Information for the Public

Editor's note: The following scope statement was approved by the NLM Board of Regents at their May 1999 meeting.

Purpose - NLM's goal is to improve the national infrastructure that supports the public's access to electronic health information. This infrastructure includes the intellectual organization, information technology, inter-institutional arrangements, and training that will be needed to ensure that all people in the U.S. have a known, accessible, understandable, and affordable source of current, authoritative health information.

Audience - NLM's efforts are targeted toward members of the public, health professionals seeking information for individual patients or whole communities, librarians and other health information providers, and health educators. NLM works with a variety of intermediaries, including family members, health care providers, public health professionals, librarians, educators and community-based organizations to reach those who lack direct access to electronic health information.

Priorities

* Organize selected authoritative electronic information that is available at low or no-cost, with an emphasis on science-based, nationally applicable resources.
* Develop easy-to-use access and delivery mechanisms that promote the public's understanding of health information, drawing on research in lay terminology, graphical and multimedia presentation, etc.
* Publicize reputable electronic health information services, including those available from NLM and other sources.
* Assist those providing health information to the public to make effective use of electronic services through Internet connections, training, and other means, with an emphasis on those serving minority groups, low income populations, and seniors.
* Promote integration of NLM services with other electronic services covering regional, state, or local health information.
* Refer members of the public to regional, state, and local sources of reference assistance and document delivery and continue to serve as the national backup.
* Conduct and support research, development, and evaluation on the public's health information needs, information seeking behaviors and learning styles, information systems that meet the public's needs, and the impact of access to information.

Exclusions

  NLM:

* will not provide personal medical or health advice to individuals;
* will not lead disease prevention or health promotion campaigns;
* will not write new information content, but will bring gaps to the attention of NIH;
* will not expand its acquisition and cataloging of print materials written for the general public, but will continue to acquire selected high quality print items. ✂

Your Opinion Counts!

(From the NLM Web site at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/od/nlmplan.html)

NLM is updating its overall Long Range Plan in 1999, and invites your input. It is soliciting your comments in the following tentative areas:

1. Organizing Health-Related Information and Providing Access to It
2. Reaching Out to the Professional and Lay Publics
3. Advancing Scientific Knowledge in Molecular Biology
4. Building Health Applications for Advanced Computer and Communications Technologies
5. Developing New Forms of Knowledge

Please send your comments and ideas to the following email address: plan@nlm.nih.gov

Citations to useful background documents for the planning effort are also welcome.

Alternately, you can send comments, background documents, and any other input you would like NLM to have to:

Ms. Susan Buyer
Acting Chief
Office of Planning and Analysis
National LIbrary of Medicine
Bldg. 38, Room 2S-18
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20894

Library of California Update

by Joanne Kennedy, MSLS, AHIP, Library of California Board

THE LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA. Doesn't that make you envision a stately building - a classic old California style structure reminiscent of one of the great California missions? Where you can wander into its cool interior and see high vaulted ceilings that seem to soar above you? Where the atmosphere is hushed and surrounding you are books as far as you can see?

But not so. The Library of California is not a building, but an electronic network of California libraries that will eventually make it possible for any Californian to use any library anywhere in the state. Up to now, this concept could be safely tucked away in your "look into" or "future projects" file or any name you give a file which holds "looks like this is important so I better look at this sometime." Of course you can still keep the Library of California neatly tucked away, but I don't think you want to!

Librarians throughout the state have long recognized the value of linking 8,000 libraries and in 1996 members of the library community reached a consensus on the services and structure of the future Library of California. On January 1, 1999, SB 400 (Chapter 948, Statues of 1998) went into effect creating the Library. Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian, the Library of California State Board, and the staff from the Library Development Services Bureau have been given the responsibility to oversee this entity.

The Library of California Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and four by the Legislature. The state board determines policy for and authorizes allocation of funds from programs of the Library of California Act, the California Library Services Act, the Families for Literacy Program, and the California Library Literacy Service. Members serve for four years, representing various constituencies. More information about the Library of California Board can be found at http://www.library.ca.gov/cslb.

Five million dollars has been appropriated for the Library of California this first year. The money is to be divided to cover four areas including telecommunications, licensed databases, material loans, and regional library network planning. These four areas are the responsibility of the following staff members from the Library Development Services Bureau and the Library of California Board:

• Ann Marie Gold was appointed the Interim Manager of the Library of California. Her responsibilities include: initiation of programs in the areas of telecommunications, databases and loan programs, as well as development of the regional library networks and the rule making process.

• Barbara Will, Networking Coordinator, who was instrumental in bringing the Library of California to successful legislation after four years, is now involved with regulatory process and is responsible for regulations being submitted to the Office of Administrative Law. Public hearings for comments about these regulations have been scheduled throughout the state during June and July 1999. Two Board members will be at each meeting. For more information about these hearings, please contact Barbara or Ann Marie at (916) 653-7183.

• Mark Parker, was selected as State Library Technology Coordinator, a significant role, for without the latest technology advances, the Library of California could not be a reality. One recent advance is the Internet protocol called Z39.50. This program would benefit libraries by establishing Internet connectivity to the various library online catalogs using standardized search platforms. This would also be the first stage in providing a host of services to Californians, including interlibrary loans, access to image files, electronic borrowing privileges, and access to licensed databases. At the February 1999 meeting, the Library of California Board adopted a Statewide Database strategy designed to encourage libraries of all types to make their collections accessible via Z39.50 searching. Grants are available to connect to your library. For a grant application, go to http://www.library.ca.gov/loc.

• Patricia Earnest, the Planning Consultant, is responsible for the Negotiator's Advisory Task Force. This is a multi-type advisory group of key negotiators whose responsibilities are to obtain information on database licenses and to secure pricing agreements.

At its meetings in January and February 1999, the Library of California Board approved the establishment of eight planning regions within the state for the purposes of planning for the final formation of Regional Library Networks for the Library of California. For information about your region call (916) 653-8443. During its April 1999 meeting, the Board voted to have Dr. Starr make the Statewide Serials Database available as the initial statewide serials access program of the Library of California. This access will begin in July 1999 for a period of one year. The Board has created two specific committees which will help the progress towards the implementation of the Library of

California. The first committee, Library Access Committee, chaired by Victoria Fong, has the responsibilities for programs such as direct loan, document delivery, electronic delivery, and other services that can be directly accessed by the end user. The Library of California Support Services Committee, chaired by John Kallenberg, has the responsibilities for reviewing programs such as training & education, preservation, regional networks development, telecommunications, resource identification, and location. Members from both committees are interested in hearing ideas and suggestions from librarians during this planning phase.

The Library of California is an exciting new concept with unlimited possibilities. Your ideas and suggestions are most welcome. Please contact Board members through the Library Development Services Bureau at (916) 653-5217.

Editor's note: Joanne Kennedy represents institutional libraries as a member of the Library of California Board. Ms. Kennedy is the Manager of Library Services and Continuing Medical Education at St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard. She is a former chair of the Hospital Library Section of the Medical Library Association. She is a member of the Medical Library Group of Southern California and Arizona and Total Interlibrary Exchange (TIE) in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties. ✂

WANTED...Articles!

Do you have any noteworthy news you would like to share with the Region?

If so, please contact Heidi Sandstrom, *Latitudes* Editor, at **(800) 338-7657** or heidits@library.ucla.edu.

DEADLINE: July 30, 1999

Request for Proposals:
Access to Electronic Health Information for the Public

Purpose: The purpose of this outreach initiative is to ensure that health professionals, their patients and the general public are connected to the health information resources they need to make informed health care decisions.

Outreach can take various forms depending on the needs of the target audience: promoting awareness of relevant health information resources at the regional, state, and local level through presentations, demonstrations, and exhibits; linking individuals and organizations with an NN/LM member library for backup assistance in locating hard to find information; obtaining the full text of journal articles; teaching how to search the Internet for reliable and authoritative health information; demonstrating and teaching the use of PubMed, Internet Grateful Med, MEDLINEplus, additional NLM databases, and other sources to obtain health information; and developing web links to local, state and regional health-related information to enhance what is available in MEDLINEplus for consumers.

Eligibility: Network members in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Southwest Region, are eligible to apply. Applications may cover groups of institutions. A single, NN/LM member lead institution, must apply on behalf of the group. Health science libraries, health information resource centers, public libraries and state library organizations which provide health information services are eligible for network membership. Contact the Regional Medical Library for information about becoming a network member library.

Funding: This solicitation uses the subcontract mechanism. The lead institution will act as a subcontractor to the NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region with responsibility for the planning, direction, and execution of the proposed project. For a single institution, support is available up to $10,000; a group of institutions may receive up to $40,000. The proposed projects may target individuals and organizations providing health information to the public, as well as targeting the public directly.

Period of Performance: up to 18 months from date of the award.

Deadline for submission of proposals: July 30, 1999

To obtain a copy of the Request for Proposals and related documents, visit this URL at the Pacific Southwest Region Web site:

http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/psr/chi/ann.html

If you have questions or need additional information contact Beryl *Glitz, Associate Director, at* bglitz@library.ucla.edu or 1 (800) 338-RMLS.

Network Newsmakers!

The following librarians in our Region have been accepted to Medical Informatics 1999, sponsored by the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the Marine Biological Laboratory (Woods Hole, MA):

- Arlene Cohen, Circulation/Outreach Services Librarian, Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, University of Guam. Arlene has implemented electronic document delivery this past year in the Pacific Basin.

- Jacqueline D. Doyle, Director, Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ. Jacque is the Immediate Past President of the Medical Library Association.

- Howard Fuller, Librarian, The Health Library, Stanford Hospital and Clinics. Howard co-authored the article, "The Hospital Library Online" in the June 1999 *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association.*

Kay Deeney, Reference Librarian, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, submitted the business card that was chosen to be placed in the time capsule at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association in Chicago last month. This meeting concluded MLA's Centennial Celebration and marked the beginning of MLA's second century!

Michael R. Kronenfeld, Director, Maricopa Integrated Health System, Phoenix, AZ, has been elected to chair the Hospital Library Section of the Medical Library Association.

Congratulations to you all!

PSRML Director Appointed to NLM Board

Alison Bunting, AUL for Sciences, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, UCLA, has been appointed by Donna Shalala, Secretary of HHS, to the National Library of Medicine Board of Regents. Her term is from August 1999 to August 2003. Alison has stated, "…I'm deeply honored by this appointment." We medical librarians are deeply honored to have her represent our profession! �

PSRML Intern's Role in Minority AIDS Project

PSRML is working closely this year with the Minority AIDS Project (MAP) to help improve their information access. MAP is an organization that provides HIV/AIDS-related health services and education to primarily African-American and Latino communities in Central and South Central Los Angeles. Our work with them is part of our ongoing commitment to ensure that inner city health organizations have access to health information made available by the National Library of Medicine. Clair Kuykendall, who is currently working as an intern at PSRML, while attending the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, has been involved with the project, which includes a needs assessment, loan of computers, and intensive training in searching NLM resources. We are happy to have Clair's assistance. Library school interns have long been a part of the PSRML team: they provide much needed support for our many programs and services, and gain valuable experience for their future professional careers. Clair is also involved in other outreach activities and has assisted at the recent National Rural Health Association conference, teaching two PubMed workshops and working at the exhibit booth. We are really pleased to have this opportunity to work with her. ✿

NLM Awards
in Region 7

We are pleased to announce that the following National Library of Medicine awards have been made in our region:

- An INFORMATION SYSTEMS GRANT to John M. Carney, Charles R. Drew University, Los Angeles, CA, for his project, "Access to Medical Literature"

- An INTERNET CONNECTION GRANT to Dr. Jeannette Sasmor, Yavapai College, Prescott, AZ

Check out the Web site at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/ep/faq1.html for information on these and other NLM grants available to health sciences libraries.

IGM Update

The version of Internet Grateful Med released in May brought some useful changes. If there are comments or suggestions please contact Sonya Shooshan, MMS/IGM, SHOOSHS@mail.nlm.nih.gov.

Saving Personal Journal List
—Users can now utilize their Loansome Doc userid to save a personal journal list. NLM would still like users to limit their list to no more than 15 titles.

Saving Search Strategies
—"Save a Search Strategy by Constructing an IGM URL" instructions are available from a link on the IGM home page or at http://igm.nlm.nih.gov/splash/IGM_url.html. This is the IGM method for running regular searches in SDILINE. The process involves writing the search strategy into a URL and can be quite involved depending on the complexity of the strategy. Allow time for testing.

Loansome Doc
—Ordering is now available for the AHA subset of HealthSTAR and Histline.

TOXLINE
— The choice for date limit has been set to 1965 to present or 1985 to present.

Database Update Documentation
— Information about the last update of each NLM database is now available from the IGM Home Page.

MEDLINEplus Link
— A link to MEDLINEplus has been added to the IGM Home Page

Parentheses and the Metathesaurus
— The software bug has been fixed that caused incorrect retrieval when a user selected a MeSH term that included parentheses and added a subheading from the Metathesaurus (ex: Diagnosis, Dual (Psychiatry)/standards). ✄

Toll-Free Numbers from the National Library of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine is pleased to offer this online database of health-related organizations operating toll-free phone services. The database also includes information services publications available in Spanish. For further information on health resources, please visit the URL at http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/hotlines.

Stay Up to Date!

The NLM Files mailing list distributes weekly announcements of new and updated files on the NLM Web site (http://www.nlm.nih.gov) and NLM Anonymous FTP server (ftp://ftp.nlm.nih.gov).

To subscribe:

Send an email message to: lists@mailserv.nlm.nih.gov
Leave the subject line blank.
In the body of the message, type: subscribe nlmfiles

To unsubscribe:

Send an email message to lists@mailserv.nlm.nih.gov
Leave the subject line blank.
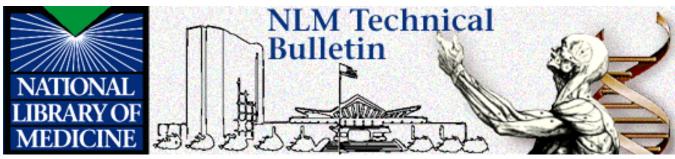In the body of the message, type: unsubscribe nlmfiles

Tag-Teaming PubMed and IGM With Your Web Browser And Operating System

By Andrew Hamilton, Online Analyst, National Online Training Center

There are many features of PubMed and Internet Grateful Med (IGM) that rely on functions found within the WWW browser or operating system in which they are used. Let's look at a few features found outside of PubMed and IGM that are quite useful when used within NLM's WWW-based MEDLINE search interfaces. Please Note: Macintosh users should use the "command" key instead of the "control" key in the following examples.

1. Printing - There are no explicit "print" commands in either PubMed or IGM. Printing is a function of the WWW browser being used to access PubMed/IGM. From the browser, you can use either the Print icon from the browser button bar, or select Print from the File menu. You can also use the operating system print command by pressing ctrl-P to print the active window (This feature can be used to print the contents of the Details Box in PubMed). The browser will print from PubMed/IGM the same way it prints from other WWW pages – What You See Is What You Get. For example, if you have citations 1-20 from a total of 115 displayed on the current WWW page in the brief format, invoking the print command will print just those 20 citations in the brief format. To print all 115 records in one of the larger formats requires that the user change both the number of documents displayed per page as well as the display format. Netscape users have the option, if there is any question about what will actually be printed, to use Print Preview from the File menu to see what would actually be sent to the printer.

2. Finding and Highlighting - Neither PubMed nor IGM have specific features for highlighting search terms or phrases as they occur within MEDLINE records. However, virtually all up-to-date WWW browsers have the capacity to find and successively highlight a specific string of characters found within a Web page. Web-based MEDLINE searchers can take advantage of this "Find" feature (crtl-F or the Find option under the Edit menu) to enter and locate strings of characters within MEDLINE records. "Find" functions just like "Print" does in that it will not go from the brief citation format into a complete record and find words/phrases that are not actually displayed on the current page.

3. Multi-Tasking - The operating systems found on today's computers allow users to have multiple applications running at the same time. Email, word processor, spreadsheet and WWW browser applications can all be open and running at the same time. Multiple sessions of a single application can also be used in this environment. In the PubMed/IGM setting, a user can start with one browser window and open another window using the New Window option on the File menu (or by pressing ctrl-N). The user can then navigate within the second window to a page such as the MeSH browser.

4. Editing - Many of us are acquainted with the common text editing features of Cut (crtl-X), Copy (crtl-C), and Paste (crtl-V) seen in numerous software applications. A PubMed/IGM user can employ these functions to transfer text information between windows and applications.

5. Viewing - Having a problem with the type on PubMed and IGM pages? Do you wish you could change the font or make it larger? You can. Some WWW pages have document-specific fonts, but in PubMed and IGM, the font and point size for displayed text is determined by the preference settings of your WWW Browser. Change how your browser displays text, and you will change how text is displayed in PubMed and IGM.

The bottom line is that if your operating system or WWW browser gives you the capability to do something - you can do it within PubMed and IGM. Start thinking beyond the realm of the specific commands available within PubMed/IGM and look to the commands and capacities found within your browser and your operating system to open up the true power and potential of PubMed and IGM. ✂

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ma99/ma99_locatorplus.html

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(The articles that are bolded are reprinted in this issue of Latitudes. If you want a copy of an article that is not printed, please contact PSRML)

MeSH Guidelines for Medical Catalogers Available on the Web

A new document titled, Application of MeSH for Medical Catalogers, describing changes in NLM cataloging practices has just been made available on the Web at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/cataloging/catmesh.html. This document details cataloging changes that resulted from NLM's implementation of Endeavor Information Systems' Voyager as its new Integrated Library System (ILS); LOCATOR*plus* is the Online Public Access Catalog module of the ILS.

With 1999 MeSH and the implementation of the Voyager Integrated Library System, the Cataloging Section moved to harmonize its practices for subject heading content and structure with NLM's indexing practices. These changes are intended to facilitate cross-file searching and enhance retrieval by assuring that the same terms produce like results for articles, books, non-print materials, electronic resources, etc.

The instructions on this Web page provide guidance to medical catalogers for understanding the changes to subject headings in LOCATOR*plus* and distributed records, and for constructing like headings for materials cataloged at their own institutions. These instructions apply only to *Medical Subject Headings -- Annotated Alphabetic List, 1999*. The *Annotated Alphabetic List, 2000* will have instructions for medical catalogers that reflect changes in that edition. ✄

NLM Discontinues Direct Access to ELHILL and TOXNET Command/Menu Systems on September 30, 1999

by Toby Port, MEDLARS Management Section

All direct public access to ELHILL and the TOXNET command/menu system will cease on September 30, 1999. All DOS, Windows and Macintosh versions of Grateful Med will cease functioning as of September 30, 1999 because they access ELHILL. NLM provides free Web access to all its databases and users have been encouraged to transition to the Web for more than a year.

Web-based Alternatives to ELHILL - ELHILL, NLM's legacy computer retrieval system, which has provided command language access for a fee for almost 30 (!) years will be closed to the public permanently. All users will need to use one of NLM's Web-based search engines, PubMed (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed) or Internet Grateful Med (http://igm.nlm.nih.gov) for their database searching. Currently, PubMed provides access to MEDLINE, PREMEDLINE, and publisher-supplied citations. Internet Grateful Med (IGM) provides access to MEDLINE, PREMEDLINE, and publisher-supplied citations through the PubMed retrieval system. In addition, the following databases are currently available from IGM: AIDSLINE, AIDSDRUGS, AIDSTRIALS, BIOETHICSLINE, ChemID, DIRLINE, HealthSTAR, HISTLINE, HSRPROJ, OLDMEDLINE, POPLINE, SDILINE, SPACELINE, and TOXLINE. MeSH data may be found on the MeSH browser at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/99MBrowser.html. Data previously available in AVLINE, CATLINE, and SERLINE are now available on NLM's new Integrated Library System, NLM LOCATOR*plus*, at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/locatorplus/locatorplus.html.

Automatic SDIs and Offline Prints Discontinued - Once ELHILL access is discontinued, **billed User ID codes will no longer function** and users will no longer be able to request offline prints or Automatic SDIs from NLM. However, users can now generate their own SDIs free-of-charge by using the SDILINE database in Internet Grateful Med. IGM currently has just developed a stored search capability that can be used to generate SDIs; documentation on this new feature will be published shortly. NLM also expects to have a stored search feature available as part of PubMed's cubby service (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/news.html) to replace ELHILL'S SDI function, before ELHILL is discontinued. Availability of this feature will be announced in PubMed and in this publication. Most users are already printing their search results free-of-charge in lieu of using the offline print feature.

TOXNET Billed Access Discontinued - Also on September 30, 1999 billed access to TOXNET databases will cease. TOXNET databases are now available on the Web at http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov. As announced in a Technical Note (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/nd98/nd98_technote.html#rtecs) in the November-December 1998 *NLM Technical Bulletin*, NLM discontinued free TOXNET Web access to the Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances (RTECS) on November 13, 1998. This action was taken at the request of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which produces RTECS. RTECS searchers can contact NIOSH at 1-800-35-NIOSH or visit the NIOSH Web site (http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html) to find information on registering for access to RTECS on other systems.

Issuing of Billed Codes Discontinued - Effective immediately, NLM will no longer issue new billed codes and on May 1 the online registration system will cease. Existing codes will continue to work for IGM's personal journal list feature. Internet Grateful Med is developing a new version to be available in the coming weeks that will allow a user to store a personal journal list under a Loansome Doc User ID. It is expected this change will not affect users with a current personal journal list.

Billing Information - NTIS will process and distribute final MEDLARS bills in mid-October for the July-August-September 1999 quarterly billing cycle.

Training to Use PubMed, IGM, TOXNET on the Web, and LOCATOR*plus* - NLM appreciates its users' loyalty to ELHILL. However, the time has come to let go of this groundbreaking and incredibly durable search system and embrace the Web-based search engines that will take us into the future. Information on classes for using PubMed, IGM and TOXNET on the Web is available at http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online/schedule.html and self-instructional training manuals may be downloaded from http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/web_based.html. A tutorial on using the new LOCATOR*plus* is available at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/locatorplus/tutorials/quickstart/sld001.htm. Stay tuned for an article on LOCATOR*plus* to appear shortly in the *NLM Technical Bulletin*. Please send your comments or questions to **custserv@nlm.nih.gov**. ✄

Next Generation Gateway

by Lawrence C. Kingsland
Computer Science Branch Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications

NLM offers an increasing number of Internet-based information resources. A new intelligent gateway system, now under development, will allow NLM's users to initiate searches in these multiple retrieval systems from one interface at one address in cyberspace. As a working name, NLM is calling the new search system the Next Generation Gateway. The name is subject to change.

The target audience for the new search system is the Internet user who comes to NLM not knowing exactly what NLM resources are available or how best to search for the information they need. This audience includes physicians and other health care providers, researchers, librarians, students, and increasingly, patients, their families, and the public. NLM's new MEDLINEplus site for consumer health information is right on target for these new users of the NLM Web site and is likely to create a strong influx of users who wonder "So what else is there?" The new gateway can offer links to other information and links from those sources back to the consumer health information in MEDLINEplus.

The system design reflects a concerted effort to build on the strength of the intelligent gateway concept: the ability to offer value-added capabilities for the user who does not know enough to ask for them. Links within and across databases will be vigorously exploited. Searches in clusters of databases or simultaneously in all databases accessible to the gateway will be offered.

The new gateway will initially be brought up in parallel with Internet Grateful Med. To reduce the likelihood of confusing users, individual databases will over time be removed from the set accessible through Internet Grateful Med as they become available on the Next Generation Gateway or elsewhere. In the first implementation phase, the gateway will search PubMed, LOCATORplus, and a new full text retrieval system that will include information such as conference abstracts. Access to other systems including MEDLINEplus, TOXNET on the Web, and the forthcoming NIH clinical trials database will follow. ✄

NLM Publications Related to Searching
NLM Retrieval Systems

Technical Bulletin - http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/tb.html

The NLM Technical Bulletin is now available only via the NLM Web site. New articles are added upon completion. Issues will be complete the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Back issues (May 1993 - December 1997) are also available at this site.

PubMed and Internet Grateful Med Training Manuals - http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/web_based.html

Training manuals for PubMed and Internet Grateful Med are available for downloading.

Direct ELHILL Command Language Searching: Online Services Reference Manual — Updated Chapters - http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/osrm_nlm.html

Updated chapters of the Online Services Reference Manual (OSRM) are available for downloading in WordPerfect 5.1, PDF and PostScript file formats.

NLM Serials Publications: LSIOU, LJI, and updates for indexed titles - http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/libprog.html

These serial publications are available in Wordperfect, PostScript and text formats.

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) - http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html

MeSH® is the NLM's controlled subject vocabulary used for indexing and cataloging. MeSH in MARC format is available for download. A browser of MeSH Tree Structures is available. Other files are also available for download. ✄

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

15-16 *Making the Transition* - National Online Training Center
http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/mar/
San Diego, CA

August

16-20 *Medical Informatics Introductory Short Course at Stanford University* - Stanford Center for Professional Development
http://scpd.stanford.ed/pd/misc.html
Stanford, CA (also available as an online course)

September

24 Resource Library Directors Meeting - NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region
http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/psr
Los Angeles, CA

29- 10/2 1999 Nevada Library Association Annual Conference
http://clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nla/news/99confer.htm

Print or Electronic?

PSRML sent out an informal survey in the May-June 1999 issue of *Latitudes* to explore the option of publishing *Latitudes* in electronic format only. Eighty-six (86) responses were received. Respondents indicated the following:

- 85% would be able to receive a text version of *Latitudes* within an email message
- 94% would be able to access a Web version of *Latitudes*
- 49% prefer print format; 39% prefer electronic format; 12% did not indicate a preference
- If *Latitudes* is published in electronic format only, the overwhelming majority of respondents preferred the following access methods (listed in order of preference):
  An email notice, including a table of contents, with a hyperlink to a Web-based issue
  An email notice with a hyperlink to a Web-based issue
- Other suggestions regarding access to electronic format: archive back issues and make them searchable on the Web; provide free access to all this type material at one Web site; keep it simple.
- Reasons why respondents prefer print format: portability; can read away from computer; easier to circulate, share articles; easier to file; more likely to read if issue is on desk in print; nicer copy, easier to read; less time consuming, less costly for librarian to receive print copy; I like the tactile feeling of a booklet.
- Other comments: don't want to search through email for *Latitudes*; print is more of a convenience, easier to read and route immediately; please continue including TOC of *NLM Technical Bulletin* and reprints; thanks for being so "progressive" and considering electronic format!; Great idea [electronic format]! Will save some trees and money!

Conclusion: The results of this informal survey indicate that most respondents are able to retrieve a Web version of *Latitudes*. Just over half the respondents either prefer electronic format or do not have a preference. In light of these findings, *Latitudes* will migrate in the year 2000 from being distributed in print to being published in electronic format only. For a time, we will continue to distribute print copies to those who request it. Watch for an insert in the September-October 1999 issue of *Latitudes* for additional information. And thank you for your responses! ✂

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

ATTN: LIBRARY